

CORRESPONDENCE



THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

September 3, 1998

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
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OST-98-4363-22

The Honorable Bud Shuster
Chairman
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

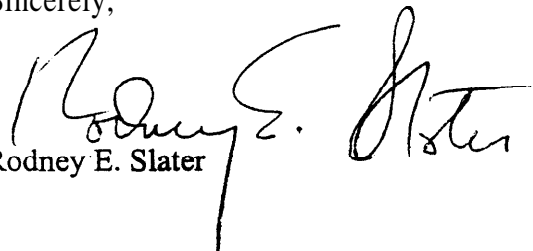
Thank you for your letter on the current litigation over proposals to provide new airline service at Love Field. You urge us to take steps to ensure that airlines can operate the services authorized by federal law.

We agree that we should resolve the existing dispute over proposals for expanded Love Field service so that airlines can operate the services authorized by federal law. We have therefore begun a proceeding to obtain the parties' comments on the relevant federal law issues, which include the question of how far a city acting as an airport proprietor may restrict airline operations at the airports that it owns. After we receive the parties' comments, we plan to issue a final order ruling on the federal law issues. In addition, the Department has amended the operating authority of all U.S. airlines to reflect the changes made by the Shelby Amendment.

We fully understand the importance of the federal legal and policy issues raised by the litigation over the Love Field service proposals. We are, of course, fully committed to ensuring airline competition throughout the country.

I hope this information is helpful. If you have further questions about this matter, please call me or Steve Palmer, the Assistant Secretary for Governmental Affairs, at 366-4573.

Sincerely,


Rodney E. Slater